

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 DIWY-01 /049 W

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R 021525Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4374

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS BAMA KO 2666

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ML, PINT, SGEN

SUBJ: PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY IN MALI

1. NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN CELEBRATED 14TH ANNUAL PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY WITH GALA CEREMONIES MORNING AND EVENING OF JULY 31. GUESTS OF HONOR WERE A SOVIET WOMEN'S DELEGATION WHICH HAD BEEN INVITED BY NATIONAL UNION. THAT EVENING THE NATIONAL UNION PUT ON DANCES, SKITS AND POPULAR SINGERS IN PROGRAM THAT LASTED UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. DIPLOMATIC CORPS WAS CONVOKED FOR BOTH OCCASIONS BY PRESIDENT'S WIFE, MARIAM TRAORE. SHE FAILED TO SHOW UP, HOWEVER, FOR EITHER OCCASION AND THERE WAS OPEN SPECULATION AND PUZZLEMENT OVER HER ABSENCE.

2. SOVIET DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY VICE-MINISTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE SOVIET REPUBLIC OF TADJIKISTAN CHOISIATE ABDOUCHOUKOUROVA. EIZAVETA MARKOSSOVA WAS DESCRIBED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR LIAISON WITH NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN. SOVIETS HAVE EQUIPMENT AND GOODS WORTH \$32,000-SEWING MACHINES, CLOTHING, UNCLASSIFIED

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RADIOS, ETC.

3. ATMOSPHERE OF PUBLIC SESSIONS WAS RELAXED AND HAPPY. TOWARDS END OF MORNING CEREMONIES SENIOR OFFICIALS OF NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN GOT UP TO DANCE TO SPIRITED MALIAN DRUMMERS. SOVIET VICE-MINISTER AND HER INTERPRETER JOINED IN TO VAST AMUSEMENT OF CROWD, IN PART BECAUSE SOVIET WOMEN OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT GET THE BEAT OF THE AFRICAN MUSIC.

4. THIS EMBASSY IS FORMING AN AMERICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION TO DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN WOMEN. WE WOULD HOPE THAT NEXT YEAR AMERICAN WOMEN WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN PAN-AFRICAN WOMEN'S DAY IN BAMAKO.
DAWKINS

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NNN

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